

Comments Re:  
FCC NPRM&O, WT Docket 05-235

### Elimination of Morse Code for the US Amateur Radio Service

I OPPOSE the elimination of the Morse Code requirement for the US Amateur Radio Service, particularly with respect to the Amateur Extra class license.

I was first licensed in 1977 as novice station WB3JYZ at the thirteen years of age, progressing through the Amateur ranks, achieving the Extra Class while a high school junior.

#### IN FAVOR OF RETAINING MORSE CODE TESTING:

1. Morse Code provides a tangible link to the telegraphic heritage of Amateur Radio in the same manner "drill and ceremony" does for the US military, an explicit reminder and connection to our telegraphic origins.
2. Morse Code provides a practical alternative criteria for testing to the memorization of questions-and-answers. In this way, Morse Code supplies a fairer method to measure licensing suitability for those with limited academic ability.
3. Morse Code is the sole remaining practical examination. Multiple choice tests bear little relationship to on-the-air operations.
4. Morse Code promotes unity and goodwill as it is the single unifying skill among all Amateurs worldwide, transcending age, class, race, nationality -- or IQ.
5. Morse Code presents no serious barrier to licensing with even minimal effort at a 5 WPM skill.
6. Morse Code testing presents no burden to the FCC as its record keeping is fully automated and testing is conducted by unpaid volunteers.
7. The reasons in favor of elimination of Morse Code testing present, even if valid, do not warrant elimination of testing for the Amateur Extra class license (to wit, a celebrated case of an 8 year old girl who passed the Extra Class written and 5WPM examinations in the recent past).

In summary, maintaining the testing requirement for Morse Code, if only for the Extra Class license, presents no burden to the FCC and maintains an effective, practical means of testing potential Amateurs that is fair, inclusive of differing academic capability, and is respectful to the history of the Amateur service.

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